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TEMPERATURE.

As observed by HEARN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING					
April 13th, 1879.			Corresponding week, 1878.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon. 42°	35°	34°	Mon. 47°	35°	41°
Tues. 48°	34°	36°	Tues. 51°	37°	44°
Wed. 50°	32°	41°	Wed. 55°	36°	45°
Thur. 44°	24°	34°	Thur. 55°	46°	50°
Frid. 37°	27°	32°	Frid. 54°	47°	50°
Sat. 46°	36°	38°	Sat. 53°	47°	50°
Sun. 45°	25°	35°	Sun. 48°	40°	44°

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 19, 1879.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

[Owing to extraordinary pressure on our space, we have to set our Parliamentary letter in editorial type, to the exclusion of other prepared material. This letter will be found as substantial and interesting as its predecessors.]

The political event of the week was a fact which may be said to mark an epoch in our Canadian history. This was the division on the New Tariff, or National Policy. The vote stood as follows: Yeas, 136; nays, 53. The yeas were therefore much more than two to one. From this point we take a new departure, supported by an overwhelming majority of the representatives of the country in Parliament.

The debate was continuous up to the time of the division from the date of my last letter, and several able speeches were delivered on both sides of the question. But they were, after all, a somewhat wearisome, thrice-told tale. It was like threshing straw—all the grain had been got out that could be. The most remarkable incident in the debate was a speech and proposed resolution in amendment by Mr. Mackenzie, the leader of the Opposition. His business, I need not say, was to lodge his formal protest against the new policy. He made what his opponents conceded was a manly speech from his standpoint, and some of his statements would certainly seem to require some courage on the part of a popular leader. He told the country, and especially the Province of Ontario, that it was his deliberate belief, upon calm reflection, that the people had been deceived into voting for the new policy; and he stated that he and his little band of followers were quite willing to make sacrifice of place and power, if simply for a protest against gigantic error, fraught, in their belief, with disastrous results to the country. He contended that his party could have retained power if they had been willing to trim their sails to the popular breeze of protection; but that they preferred to wait for the sober second-thought of the country. Perhaps they will have to wait a long time, for, in proportion that industries become seated, they are difficult to displace. There can, in fact, be no doubt that the country is fairly launched on the career of the New Policy, and, when its great resources are considered, together with the energy of the people, there can be no reasonable doubt that great results will in the next ten years be shown.

I may just state for record, that Mr. Mackenzie's amendment alleged that the scheme submitted to the House by Mr. Tilley "distributed unevenly the burdens of taxation; that it would tend to divert capital from its natural and most profitable employment to benefit special classes at the expense of the whole community; that it would tend to render futile the costly and persistent efforts of Canada to secure a share of the immense and growing carrying trade of this continent; and that it would tend to create an antagonism between the commercial policy of the Empire and that of Canada, which might lead to consequences deeply to be deplored." In other words, this amendment was a careful epitome of all the arguments used on the Opposition side, as against those which I have shown you in former letters were set forth by the Ministerialists. The House declared itself overwhelmingly against the amendment; and the part of wisdom on the side of the Opposition now would be to assist in making the Tariff as perfect as possible.

I may recall that my last letter was written on the 6th inst., immediately after the first announcements had been made in the Letellier matter, and when many men were wildly attacking the Governor-General, as if he were personally responsible for the action; and I do this for the purpose of pointing out that the debate and the arguments have since come down to the precise point I indicated they must. Sir John Macdonald formally announced that the Ministry were responsible for the reference to England. It was therefore this responsibility that had to be held to account. There can be no wilder or clumsier mistake under our system than attacking the Governor-General in any circumstances while the Ministers remain in power.

The air has been fairly alive with rumours; one of which took specific form in a leading Toronto newspaper, to the effect that the Marquis of Lorne had written an autograph and indignant letter to Sir John Macdonald, complaining that he had put him in a false position by the announcement he had made, and had made him (the Governor-General) a target for attack. Sir John, upon this, sent the statement to His Excellency, who wrote him in reply that it had no foundation in truth, and that he might contradict it if he thought it worth while.

Mr. Langevin, as you will have seen, has left for England to present the case to Her Majesty's Government, and Sir John stated in the House that Mr. Abbott, of your city, would probably accompany him. There were rumours that delegates would also go to argue the Letellier side, but probably these do not rest on any good foundation. There was a further rumour that Captain Harvey, one of the Governor-General's aides-de-camp, had gone to England to present personal views the Governor did not desire to write; but this has no foundation. Captain Harvey has gone home in consequence of the serious illness of his father.

The reference to England brings with it an entirely new form of question, and this, I understand, is the main point submitted: Is it within the competence of the Federal Government of Canada to deal with the question at issue as respects Mr. Letellier? or are the Lieut.-Governors of Provinces to be considered as representatives of the Crown, to be dealt with as such by the Governor-General in his capacity of Imperial Officer? Both views have been maintained. But in my mind there is not even a doubt on the question. Both of these points will be largely governed, in any reference to England, by the further question of the extent of the right of self-government enjoyed by Canadians; and I do not see that there can be a doubt in the mind of any reasonable man who has followed and is acquainted with our politics for the last few years, in their relations to the Mother Country, as to what the answer on this will be. In fact, as I write these lines, there is a summary of an article in the London Times, tele-

graphed to the leading Toronto Opposition paper, to the effect that the answer to the question, as I have stated it, must be in the affirmative. I think it would be absurd to suppose that the Imperial authorities could so far mix themselves up in our questions of self-government as to answer it in the negative. This argument is altogether apart from the original question of the merits of the case, as between Mr. Letellier himself and his assailants. That is by no means free from doubt, and, if simply presented, it is quite possible that the answer might come in His Honour's favour. But, as it is, it may be stated, he is sure to fall under the operation of the other question, Sir John being supported by so large a majority fresh from the country, it being impossible to believe that the Governor-General would precipitate a crisis in the face of such odds on such a question, or that he could be advised by the Imperial Ministers to do so.

The Coteau Bridge since my last letter has occupied a great deal of the Railway Committee chiefly to settle whether it should be allowed in view of the interests of the navigation of the St. Lawrence. There have been strong opinions both for and against. Mr. Page, Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, was against it. Mr. Holton thought that in addition to the views of Mr. Page, those of Mr. Shanley should be had; and this was ordered. At present the aspect is rather bad for a swing bridge; and it is said that a high level one would imply the death of the project.

Mr. Loucks, of Manitoba, was examined before the Immigration Committee and gave evidence corroborative of the very great fertility of that Province. There appears to be a perfect rush to it from all parts of Canada; but the people are making a great mistake in going before the roads are dry. They will be sure to suffer great hardships. Of course it was quite different with those who went in a few weeks ago to avail themselves of the snow roads to reach fixed destinations.

The diversion of the Pacific Railway from the northern or "Narrows" route, as it is called, to go south of Lake Manitoba, has been officially announced, as I told you in my last letter it would be. Lands to the extent of twenty miles on each side of the railway track are already withdrawn from purchase by means of scrip. The policy is to sell these lands at a high price and make the proceeds from them build the railway. The amount of expenditure on the Pacific Railway to March 1st last was \$5,536,534.

There was a personal matter on Thursday night brought on by an attack of Sir Albert Smith on Mr. Tilley. The retort of the latter was that he had been offered through Sir Albert a second term of the Lieutenant-Governorship of New Brunswick, together with hopes held out of a Cabinet position in the Mackenzie Government, both of which he had declined from his want of sympathy with that Government, as not representing the true interests of the country. As against this it was represented that Sir Albert was not authorised by Mr. Mackenzie to make these offers. From the looks of things we shall probably have the correspondence itself.

The Committee on Insolvency has received a report from its sub-committee on the proposed new Insolvent Bill. The principal recommendations were: to diminish the facilities of the debtor for obtaining his discharge; to deprive him of the power of getting back his estate, leaving it to be divided among his creditors; and to provide additional supervision over the insolvent and the assignee.

The contract for the new bridge above the Chaudiere has been let; and this when completed will connect the Ontario railway system with that of the North Shore Line of Quebec.

The House adjourned on Thursday night over Easter, and will meet again on Tuesday, when the details of the tariff will be resumed.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO ITALY.

The Villa Clara, at Baveno, a sketch of which we present to-day, was selected by the Queen's *aide-de-camp de voyage* as the most suitable residence for Her Majesty during her visit to Italy for the sake of her health. Application was made to the owner, Mr. CHARLES HENFREY, to let it; this he declined, but said he should be honoured if he might be permitted to lend it to Her Majesty; and his offer was accepted. The villa is situated on the eastern slope of the range of mountains which separates the Lago d'Orta from the Lago Maggiore. It commands lovely views of the latter, and of the Borromeo Islands, as well as of the Alps of the Simplon Pass, and the Monte Leone, which form the north-western boundary of the Lago Maggiore. The gardens in which the villa is placed are very beautiful. Even in this district, where the gardens of the Isola Bella and the Isola Madre have been celebrated for more than a century, the gardens of the Villa Clara are the most admired. During the absence for some years in India of the owner, the gardens were laid out and planted with rare shrubs. The winding roads, paths, and terraces were constructed, and the plateau on which the house was to be built was prepared. About seven years ago the house was erected from the designs of Mr. W. A. BOULNOIS, an English architect; its style is a mixture of the Lombardic, Italian, and French. The rooms are of moderate size, but lofty, and are like those of an English house, decorated in the Italian style. There is a staircase of white Carrara marble. A loggia or covered arcade leads round the house on three sides, and the rooms open upon it. A lofty tower with an open balcony affords extended views over the lake and mountains. Within the grounds is a small church in the Romanesque style, which was built from the designs of Mr. PULLAN. This church is the place of worship for the English visitors to Baveno, and is placed at the northern end of the grounds, within five minutes' walk of the houses and hotels of that village.

"CANADA'S FLOATING FARMS" forms the title of a very effective original sketch which appears in the present number of the NEWS, and to which we beg to draw attention. The exportation of live cattle for the British market is fast developing into a great industry, and what contributes largely to its success is the admirable mode of carriage adopted on shipboard. Our sketch represents a scene on board of the "Memphis," of the Dominion Line. The way in which the cattle are cared for is so remarkable, that, according to a correspondent who supplies us with information, he never heard one bellow during the whole length of a voyage. The attendance on them is continual. The sheep are also well attended to, a certain number of them being even let out in rotation, as the weather permits, for the exercise of their limbs, cramped by their rather narrow stalls. Altogether, they are a source of no annoyance to passengers, contributing, on the contrary, some amusement, and helping to break the monotony of the voyage. To give a faint idea of the extent of this cattle trade, we may mention that the shipments by the Dominion Line alone, for the year 1878, consisted of 6,620 cattle, 24,030 sheep, and 120 horses. Our other lines drive as large a trade, and altogether the business is one that promises to develop to very great proportions.

The Russians have a way of making a man literally eat his own words. This is realism with a vengeance. A writer who had published a satirical work denouncing the Czar, the high officials and the Administration of the country generally, was sentenced to swallow his own volume. A platform was erected in one of the public squares of the city. Bound hand and foot, the victim was seated in the centre of the platform. The imperial provost, the magistrate, the physician and